



Thursday November 21 1996

Table of international rates for various countries including Albania, Andorra, Austria, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,716

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Advertisement for 'You're nicked' featuring a photo of a man and the text 'Is Zero Tolerance the answer to serious crime?'.

Advertisement for 'Books' featuring the text 'The art of writing scenes' and a photo of a person writing.

Advertisement for 'OnLine' featuring the text 'Suddenly satellites are big business' and 'G2 pages 11/13'.

Fierce Labour rebuttal exercise forces Tories on to the defensive

Tax bombshell fuels poll fever

Michael White Political Editor

LABOUR and the Conservatives were both claiming victory in the first big skirmish of the election campaign last night after Tory claims that a Blair government would cost the average family £1,200 a year in extra taxes met with an opposition rebuttal exercise of unprecedented brutality.

By late evening the 89-page Conservative document — 89 "major spending pledges", according to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, William Waldegrave — had been subjected to a detailed Labour rebuttal and a counter-rebuttal from policy analysts at Tory headquarters.

With Labour determined not to allow what Gordon Brown dubbed the "Tory lie machine" to repeat Chris Patten's "Labour tax bombshell" coup in 1992, the effectiveness of the rival propaganda tactics will not finally be known until the election votes are counted.

But John Major's election team at Conservative Central Office, which had totted up a £30 billion bill for implementing assorted Labour aspirations — £7 billion less than the comparable bill for Neil Kinnock's alleged plans in 1992 — spent most of the day on the defensive after independent experts derided many of their claims.

Sweeping aside assorted quotations culled from speeches by Tony Blair and his senior colleagues — signalling costly improvements in every Whitehall department, according to the Tories — the shadow chancellor hammered home his own austere message that the "five



'It is important we all stand by these figures and ministers make sure they use only these figures in public'

— William Waldegrave

early pledges" contained in the recent Road to the Manifesto statement were the only ones that mattered.

"We will rebut whatever is claimed about spending, one by one. The Road to the Manifesto makes it absolutely clear what we can deliver and what we can't deliver, and it makes it absolutely clear that every spending commitment will be funded," Mr Brown said. The rest were aspirations, pilot projects or merely ideas for consideration.

"The Conservative campaign has failed. They have tried to get a scare running, negative American-style campaigning. They have failed," he insisted.

Well aware that a Labour tax scare will be harder to sell to wary voters after tax rises in 1992 — spent most of the day on the defensive after independent experts derided many of their claims.

amounts to a subliminal extension of the "demon eyes" attack on Labour.

Mr Major and his deputy, Michael Heseltine, both stressed that these yesterday, hoping to force Mr Blair and Mr Brown to publish their own costings or deny that the 89 pledges exist.

"Either it's a confidence trick and there's nothing behind it, or it is going to cost a lot," Mr Heseltine told Channel 4 News. Mr Waldegrave, whose Treasury boss, Kenneth Clarke, will present the last pre-election Budget on Tuesday, ducked detailed questions about the scale of Conservative tax rises since 1992 — and pressure to say taxes will not rise again if Mr Major wins a fifth Tory term.

Mr Clarke is expected to cut the basic rate of income tax by at least 1p to appease the Tory right, though Labour claimed last night he would have to put up VAT and other taxes to square the debt circle sooner or later. As in 1992, ministers deny it.

"We had to put up taxes after the last election largely because the tax base falls away in a recession. I don't believe Labour would have

asked us to make the very large expenditure cuts in services that would have been necessary to maintain the original tax base at the time of a recession," Mr Waldegrave told a Westminster press conference. The Tories remained "tax-cutters by instinct", he argued.

Two sub-plots enlivened the row which pitted the two party election machines against each other in earnest for the first dress rehearsal of the campaign. Labour targeted Mr Waldegrave as personally untrustworthy because of his controversial role in the arms-to-Iraq affair — "his credibility has been demolished" — and played up the role of the neutral civil service in allegedly vetting, and giving credibility to, estimates placed on Labour's programme by Tory special advisers and researchers.

With the First Division Association, representing higher officials, protesting that "a clear boundary has been crossed" in the use of civil servants for party purposes, a statement from the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, denounced as a "travesty" reports that he had protested to Mr Waldegrave over Tory suggestions that he had personally approved the exercise. Labour insisted they were accurate.

Mr Brown's Treasury team also published a leaked memo from Mr Waldegrave, reminding cabinet colleagues of yesterday's "Labour Costings Exercise". In it, he said: "It is particularly important that we all stand by these figures and that all ministers make sure that they use only these figures in public."

Tory "lie machine", page 2; Leader comment, page 2; Ian Altman, page 2; Notebook, page 11



One man and his dog... Roy Hattersley, left, and an unrepentant Buster at yesterday's photocall PHOTOGRAPH: ALEX LEVITT

Survey finds most voters would pay more for health and schools

Mark Millner

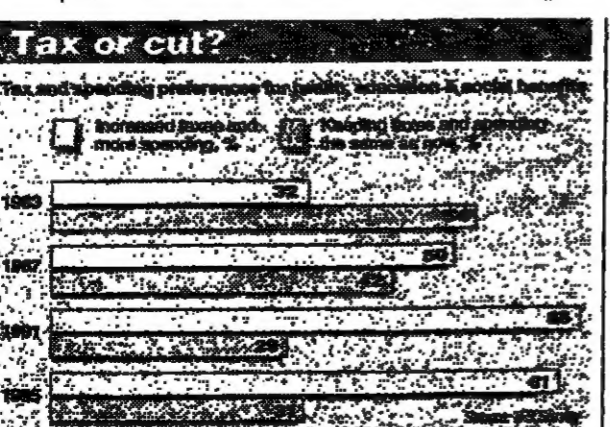
A MAJORITY of voters want higher spending on health and education, even if the burden of funding increased spending should fall on others.

But, in a classic illustration of voter ambiguity, most people feel they pay too much tax, and that the burden of funding increased spending should fall on others.

The survey, carried out by the Institute for Fiscal Studies as part of the annual British Attitudes Survey, is more likely to help party political strategists in the run-up to the general election.

The levels of support for more health and education spending are close to those recorded before the 1992 Conservative victory, fought and won on a commitment to cut income tax. However, they are more than double the level they stood at when the survey was first carried out in 1983.

This year's survey set out to determine — in its own words — "whether the electorate is willing to put its money where its mouth is" on higher spending. It found that six out of 10 were prepared to pay more tax to fund more health spending, and slightly



more than half would do so to provide more money for education — though that was below the levels recorded by the previous survey, when the tax implications were not taken into account.

The fall off in support was even more marked in the case of spending on policing, where support for extra spending almost halved when voters were asked if they were prepared to pay an extra penny in the pound on the basic rate of income tax or a flat 53p rise.

The survey concludes that although people are less likely to advocate large increases in public expenditure when the personal tax conse-

quences are spelled out to them in detail, a comfortable majority none-the-less supports increases in spending on at least one or more core areas of health, education and universal welfare benefits.

Paradoxically, it also notes that there is a general feeling that the burden of extra taxation should fall on those with high incomes, but only 3 per cent of those questioned included themselves in this category. "It is other people's taxes that most people feel should go up."

On social security benefits, the survey found that the state pension and benefits for disabled people had most support, with over half of those surveyed making them their first or second priority. Benefits for single parents received least support.

Though more people now buy private health care and education, the survey found few signs that this was undermining support for public provision in these areas.

Queen's goose vs Hattersley, R.

John Ezard

BY old-fashioned standards at least, you were in dire trouble as you saw how his name appeared on the magistrates' court list yesterday.

Everyone else on the alphabetical case list — from Avolio through Hamidoc to Zaplatik — had their first names given. But this villain was listed only as Hattersley, R.



isation can be judged by the way it speaks of its citizens in court. Arnold was enraged by a court report that said of a poor woman charged with infanticide: "Wragg is in custody."

By this yardstick, the Right Honourable Roy Sydney Hattersley, Privy Counsellor, was treated with unique dual barbarity at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday when he faced a charge of allowing his dog, Buster, to worry one of the Queen's geese in St James's Park.

Hattersley, like Wragg, was shorn of both his Christian names and his courtesy title. But this touch of Victorian severity ended as soon as the case opened. Mistere were showered on the former shadow home secretary, indicating that the brevity of the list may merely have been a ploy to put journalists off the scent.

Hattersley was not in custody. Hattersley was not even in court, though he had appeared for an operist media photocall with Buster earlier. The magistrates, Richard Bartell, accepted his guilty plea by post.

Section header 'Inside' with sub-sections for Britain, World News, Finance, and Sport.

Section 'Britain' with text: 'The damage to the Channel Tunnel was much more severe than first admitted and services may take months to be fully restored.'

Section 'World News' with text: 'Mr. Clinton's... were trying to get their... the challenge...'

Section 'Finance' with text: 'Financial... were trying to get their... the challenge...'

Section 'Sport' with text: 'Football... were trying to get their... the challenge...'

Section 'Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10' with a barcode and reference number 770261 307347.

2 NEWS

Sketch

The cutest thing you ever heard



Simon Hoggart

ONCE a year the House holds a touching ceremony, the presentation of private members' bills. The 20 MPs who have been lucky in the ballot line up behind the Speaker's chair, each clutching their bills, crisply printed and neatly folded, ready to hand to the clerks.

Ray, what would you do to make people happier? Ray Whitney (C, Wycombe) would respond engagingly and say: "Well, I think policemen ought to be healthy and safe, because they look after us, and we shouldn't be frightened of them and we tell them if a strange man wants us to get into his car, so I've done the Police (Health and Safety) Bill."



James Spader and Deborah Unger in a scene from David Cronenberg's Crash, described by Westminster councillors as "sexually degrading" and "near necrophilia"

Sado-masochist film Crash banned

Owen Bowcott

CRASH, the controversial sado-masochist film being aroused by car accidents, was yesterday banned from the cinemas of London's West End, at least temporarily.

Other films subject to bans and censorship include:

Oliver Stone's Natural Born Killers: two young killers on a murder rampage through America. Granted an 18 certificate by the BBFC, it was banned for copycat killings in France and America. Video release was suspended in May by its distributors.

Visions of Ecstasy: 20-minute film on the religious and erotic experience of St Teresa of Avila was banned by the British Board of Film Censors in 1989.

Included a scene in which St Teresa erotically embraces the body of Christ on the cross.

The Last Temptation of Christ opened in London in September 1988. Banned by two local authorities after

churchgoers said it was indecent and blasphemous.

Monty Python's Life of Brian banned by Glasgow council's Licensing committee in 1980 because of feared insult to religious sensibilities.

Stanley Kubrick ordered Warner Brothers to remove his film, A Clockwork Orange, from distribution in the UK in 1973 after complaints that the box-office hit had inspired a plague of teenage violence.

screening, he said: "It's a good film. It's exceedingly well made, you can't take that away. If you are asking me personally whether I enjoyed the film, I can be quite honest, I could live without it. I don't like all these sex scenes and car crashes. It's not me, but then you have to remember I am a senior citizen."

While the BBFC is still considering what type of certificate to award, or whether it should have one, Crash, based on a novel by J G Ballard, has already been shown in Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, and Scandinavia. In most of those countries it has been rated for 16 or 18 years and over.

First night

Warmongers to whoremongers

Andrew Clements

Die Soldaten English National Opera

It has taken 30 years for Bernd Alois Zimmermann's only opera to make it on to the stage in London. At least three British companies, including Covent Garden, have contemplated productions over the last 10 years, only to get cold feet when they saw the balance sheet.

could make the work conform to current ideas of complexity. Hence the use of musical and dramatic multiplicity, of scenes happening simultaneously and collages of different styles — the kind of thing that is taken for granted nowadays in film and pop but which was new at that time.

Second candidate quits

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

A SECOND parliamentary candidate in the forthcoming Wirral South by-election has unexpectedly quit.

It means that of the main parties only the Conservatives have a candidate in place, prompting senior Labour sources to admit that the Tories could wrong-foot their rivals by naming an early date.

Baywatch star's marriage sinks

Pam Anderson and Motley Crue drummer to split after 21 months

Christopher Freed in Los Angeles

PAMELA Anderson, the statuesque sex symbol in the popular television series Baywatch, is to divorce her husband Tommy Lee after only 21 months of marriage.



Tommy Lee and a pregnant Pamela Anderson in January

Mr Lee and the Canadian-born actress, aged 28, were married on a beach in Mexico. They then embarked on an instant rearing programme that surprised some of their tearaway friends in Hollywood. Brandon, born in June, was dressed all in

black, including his nappies, and was photographed wearing sunglasses. Goggle-eyed reporters who asked if Ms Anderson was breast-feeding the baby were answered frankly: "Everyone knows I have breast implants. But they work."

The much tattooed Mr Lee (his right arm is covered from wrist to shoulder and the word "mayhem" is inscribed in Gothic letters on his stomach), decided Brandon should also be inked. The idea was abandoned when it was explained that the design would become unrecognisable as the child grew.

The couple posed for photographs wearing black leather, with baby's dummies in their mouths, while Brandon sported an estropendo-size cigar. Ms Anderson, who has barbed wire tattooed around her arm to mark her appearance in the action film Barb Wire, explained that they were getting Brandon used to the ways of show business. He joined her on the Baywatch beach when filming began again in August.

Court collars Hattersley over dog

continued from page 1 at 8.30am on April 8 a policeman patrolling the park came across a greylag goose "very badly injured, indeed close to death. Subsequent investigations revealed the injuries were caused by a small brown dog in the charge of Mr Hattersley."



lead, and ordered to pay £30 costs. The offences carried a total maximum fine of £400.

Police shoot dead knifeman holding store boss hostage

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

A MAN holding a supermarket manager hostage with a knife was shot dead by a police marksman yesterday after ignoring a warning to release his captive.

Superintendent Pat Wing, leading the inquiry into the shooting, said last night the police officer who had shot the man was "extremely traumatised".

DISCOVER WHY BEN ELTON WOULD RATHER SITCOM THAN STANDUP. Alison Graham puts Ben Elton under the spotlight about his transition from stand up comedian to sitcom writer. Only in this week's Radio Times. On sale now. Radio Times IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Day of charges and counter-charges as Blair's spin doctors and 'rebuttal unit' pounce on Conservative tax claims

How media massaged the message



Gordon Brown: foresaw 'tired old campaign'

Michael White Political Editor

WHEN Tony Blair's young press aide, Tim Allen, arrived at Labour's media centre on London's Millbank yesterday, clutching a pile of Evening Standards to hand to the press, it was already a day to remember in the adrenalin-charged battle between spin doctors.

What was the Telegraph's offence? To lead yesterday's edition not on the Channel tunnel disaster but on a story warning that "Labour will cost families £1,200". It was the fruit of analysis cooked up by ministers and party officials to repeat Chris Patten's celebrated "double whammy" campaign, launched in January 1992.

What was different this time was the brutal speed of Labour's response, co-ordinated by Mr Mandelson and Gordon Brown's teams, using the banks of computers and young staff in the party's "rebuttal unit".

It began on Tuesday evening before the Telegraph's first edition was even printed. Sharp-eyed political apparatchiks had noticed a half-hearted version of the Telegraph's story tucked away on the business pages of its Sunday sister paper. Labour told reporters that the "Tory lie machine" was poised to spend £6.5 million on an advertising campaign over tax.

Mr Brown slipped a sentence into his City speech on Tuesday night predicting a "tired old campaign" over tax that would ignore his austere pledges to curb spending.

What gave the Tory campaign momentum, and upstaged Mr Brown's City speech, was that Tory headquarters had managed to intercept BBC's Newsnight in the package. Labour's Brian Wilson, from the Millbank unit, was put up to denounce it as "a pack of lies".

But Radio 4's Today programme led both its key 7am and 8am bulletins with the row, before pitting Mr Waldegrave in an 8.10 slanging match with his Labour opposite number, Alastair Darling. Mr Darling reminded listeners that Mr Waldegrave was tainted by the arms-to-Iraq imbroglio — a low blow, but legitimate. But Labour was still struggling to catch up.



Peter Mandelson: rapid, brutal response

The table below shows the most important Tory claims about Labour's tax plans

Table with 5 columns: Tory claims about Labour tax plans, Tory costing £m, Labour rebuttals, Labour costing, and Guardian analysis. It lists various claims such as 'Increase overseas aid', 'Reverse cuts in World Service', 'Regional development agencies', etc., with corresponding costs and rebuttals.

4 BRITAIN

Channel train blaze

Eurotunnel set to restart services

Unions and passenger groups condemn decision to resume freight service only two days after fire and before safety inquiry

Luke Harding, Seumas Milne and Alex Duval Smith in Paris

Eurotunnel was on collision course with unions and passenger groups last night as a partial freight service was due to begin only two days after the devastating blaze.

Eurotunnel operations director Alain Bertrand, speaking shortly after emergency talks in Calais with safety experts, said there would be a phased reintroduction of services, with hopes now high of passenger services back on track "by the end of the week".

As the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority was still continuing special talks to assess security requirements in the wake of the fire, Mr Bertrand announced a breakthrough.

Eurotunnel plans to resume in several phases and as quickly as possible, starting in a few hours with freight trains, he said. "I hope passenger trains and shuttle trains with private cars and passengers might start rolling again by the end of the week."

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, called for an immediate public inquiry. He added: "Until such an inquiry can guarantee that safety is adequate, no one should go through the tunnel."

He accused the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority of "complacency" and said profits had been put before safety. French unions yesterday claimed the burning freight train stopped in the tunnel because a safety alarm disabled the engine.

A spokesman for the CGT union said: "The instructions from management are to continue as fast as possible to the exit."

In the case of Monday's train, the driver intended to divert to the safety tunnel but an alarm cut in which brought the train to a halt. Colin Brown, deputy research director of the Consumers' Association, said Eurotunnel's operating licences should be withdrawn following the blaze.



The front half of the Le Shuttle train caught in Monday's blaze emerges from the tunnel at Calais yesterday, covered in soot and ash. PHOTOGRAPH BY PASCAL HOSSAIGOU.

Tunnel blaze driver leaves hospital to find his job gone

HE had braved searing heat, terrifying blackness, and choking fumes, errors Luke Harding. But far from being hailed as a hero, lorry driver Wilson Mahwinney (below), who was caught up in the Channel Tunnel blaze, was told yesterday "You're fired".

Mr Mahwinney, 31, learned he was jobless when he rang his firm to say he had been released from hospital in France. "It's not fair, but what in life is fair?" he said. Mr Mahwinney was treated in Boulogne hospital after inhaling toxic fumes when he was trapped in a smoke-filled compartment on Le Shuttle.

"I thought I was definitely going to die. I just thought 'Oh God, this is it,'" he said. His cargo of catalogues went up in flames. He said that he rang his employer at the Northern Ireland firm of T J Hood to let him know he was safe but that the lorry had been badly damaged.

Insurance relieves financial gloom

Luke Harding

AS Eurotunnel executives contemplated the scale of the damage yesterday, they could be forgiven for thinking that, in the words of the song, Things Can Only Get Better.

The firm was faced with an \$2.8 billion overdraft, even before a lorry on its freight shuttle burst into flames. Yesterday, some insurance experts put the final bill for Monday night's fire at \$200 million, although others dismiss that as "a bit steep".

The world carries on. There is a reaction in the short term but it does not last. It is not going to make a difference to the success or failure of the refinancing package.

Although Eurotunnel's credibility with passengers has undoubtedly taken a beating, the banks who effectively own it have no intention of calling in their debts, analysts say, and the firm's long-term future appears assured.

Before the fire the service was buoyant: last month, more than 241,000 tourist vehicles, nearly 7,700 coaches and more than 80,000 lorries used its shuttle trains. It also carried more than 230,000 tonnes of freight. In the first nine months of 1996, Eurotunnel's turnover was nearly



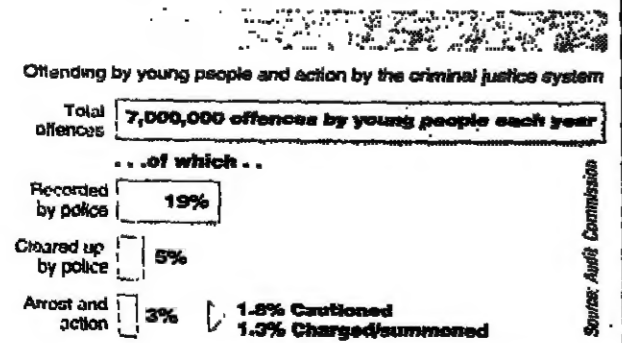
£1bn youth justice system 'is failing all concerned'

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

MORE than £1 billion a year is being spent on an inefficient juvenile justice system which is less effective than a decade ago, according to an Audit Commission report published today.

The present arrangements are failing young people — who are not being guided away from offending to constructive activities. They are also failing victims," it says.

Commission controller Andrew Foster said: "The whole youth courts process needs a systematic overhaul... to break the cycle of anti-social behaviour that has become the day to day reality for so many young people."



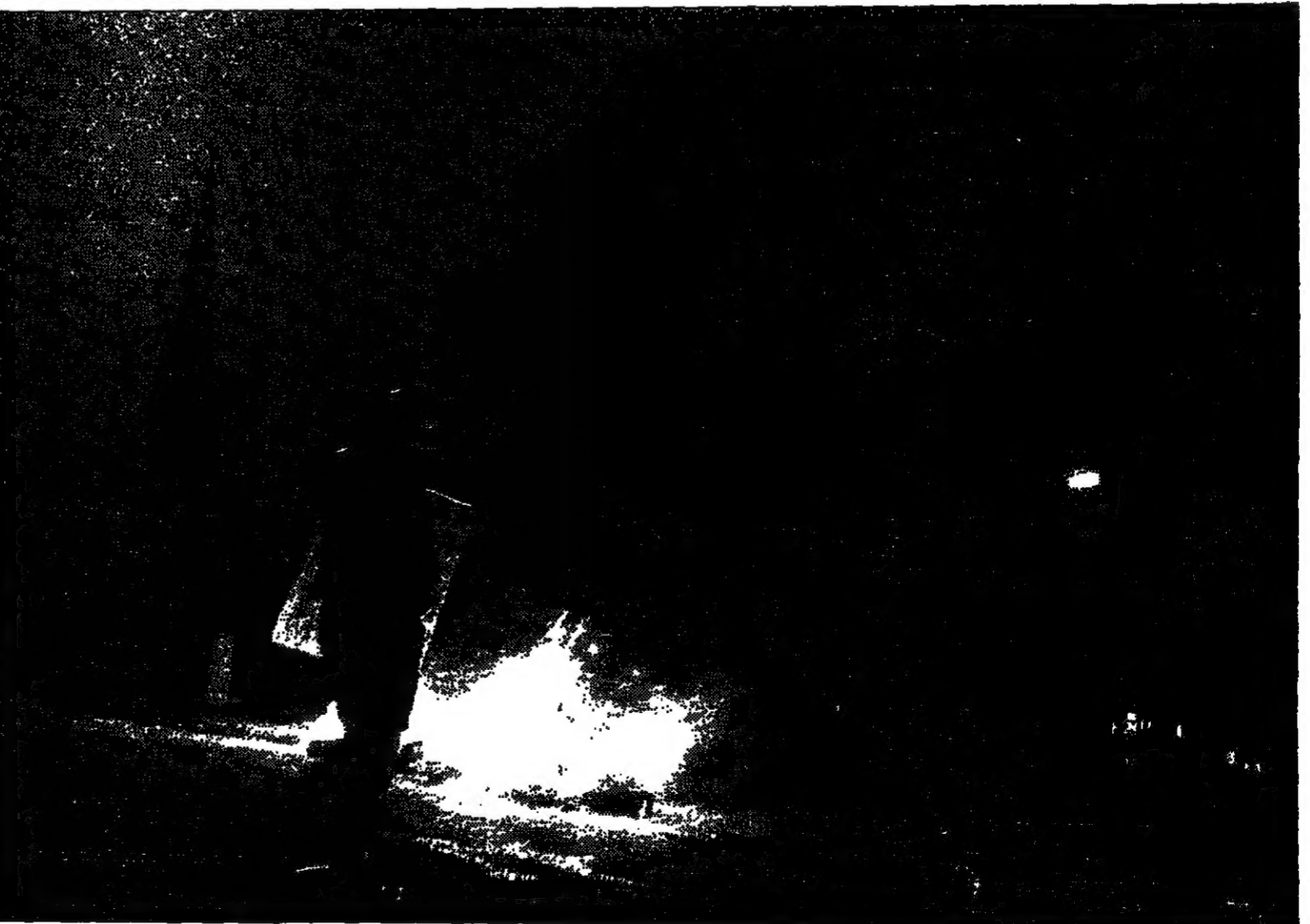
Report recommends alternative schemes 'to address juvenile offending behaviour directly'

Alan Travis

THE Audit Commission says money spent sending second or third time young offenders through a lengthy, ineffective youth court system could be better used on schemes to "address their offending behaviour directly".

case is £200 — a quarter that of going through the youth court. Police decided whether to caution or prosecute.

and parents and then the victim. Arrangements direct reparation and work relevant to the offence — if possible, for the victim — with payment of damages and/or extra education. Claims a 40 per cent re-offending rate compared with 80 per cent of those prosecuted.



Police 'must earn Asian trust' in riot city

Peter Hetherington

A FAILURE by police to operate with the consent of the Asian community in Bradford was highlighted yesterday as a principal reason leading to rioting almost 18 months ago, pictured above.

The inquiry report paints a depressing picture of a failure by various agencies to learn the lessons of Lord Scarman's damning report into the causes of the Brixton riots in the early 1980s.

It was "superficial and diversionary" to suggest that the riots occurred because of racism, but the report said: "We accept that in too many individual cases too many people experienced racism."

The riots, in the Manningham district of the city, left a trail of burned-out cars, shattered windows and looted shops. Damage was estimated at £1 million. The violence, which

not know what his reasons are," said Mr Barratt. The report identifies ethnic conflict, misunderstandings, lack of employment opportunities and perceptions of racial divisions as the points raised by 200 people interviewed by the commission.

صبراً من الامل



Snow in the Pentland Hills near Edinburgh yesterday. Although normality was returning in most areas after Tuesday's blizzards, thousands of homes in North and central Wales were still without electricity. The supplier, Manweb, said it was working flat out to reconnect supplies but Plaid Cymru MP Eilyn Llwyd said: 'We got the same excuses year after year'

# Punch editor gets KO

Andrew Cuff  
Media Correspondent

THE man who helped to exhume the corpse of Punch was yesterday consigned to the magazine's editorial graveyard. Peter McKay received the knock-out punch yesterday afternoon after he refused to drop his new weekly column in the Daily Mail. He was appointed editor nearly nine months ago and had presided over the £3 million rebirth of the magazine after its 14-year absence from newsstands and dentists' waiting rooms. He was the 14th editor in its 155-year history. Last night Stewart Steven, chairman of Mohamed al Fayed's Liberty Publishing, said the action followed "contractual differences" that could not be resolved. Mr McKay, aged 54, has enjoyed a colourful Fleet Street career as a columnist on the Evening Standard and victim of the Private Eye sobriquets Peter McLie and "the world's worst". His billing in the Daily Mail this week — "Introducing a brilliant new columnist" — precipitated his downfall at Punch. It is understood his contract, worth an estimated £175,000, included a clause requiring him not to write for other publications during the first year. Mr McKay — schooled in the old journalistic tradition of long lunches and generous expenses — was not available for comment. He is the second casualty since the relaunch. After just six issues, another executive, Mike Molloy, former editor of the Daily Mirror, parted company with the magazine. Punch relaunched in September with a 1 million copy print run. Sales have settled at around 50,000 and sources at Liberty admit it will be a long haul, although Mr al Fayed has deep pockets. When United, the former owners, closed the magazine in 1992 sales had dropped to just 22,000. Mr Steven, former editor of the Mail on Sunday and Evening Standard, will be acting editor of Punch until a replacement is found. He is the second casualty since the relaunch. After just six issues, another executive, Mike Molloy, former editor of the Daily Mirror, parted company with the magazine. Punch relaunched in September with a 1 million copy print run. Sales have settled at around 50,000 and sources at Liberty admit it will be a long haul, although Mr al Fayed has deep pockets. When United, the former owners, closed the magazine in 1992 sales had dropped to just 22,000. Mr Steven, former editor of the Mail on Sunday and Evening Standard, will be acting editor of Punch until a replacement is found.

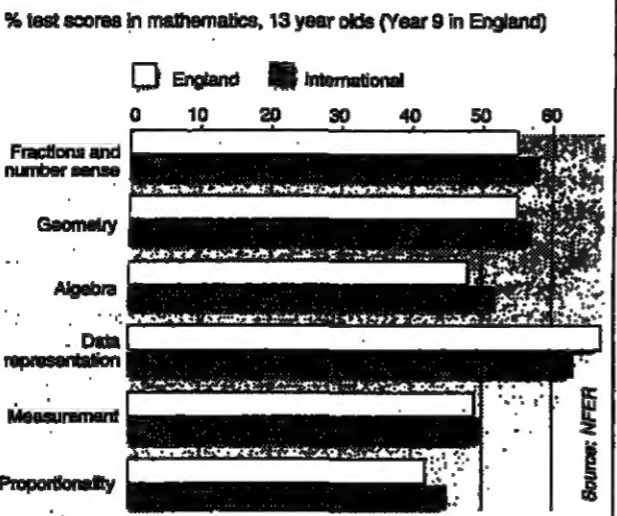
PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

# England falls behind in maths

Donald MacLeod  
Education Correspondent

ENGLISH schoolchildren are falling behind other countries in mathematics but are among the world leaders in science, according to the largest ever educational study. Tests involving 500,000 students in 40 countries showed the performance of 13-year-olds in English schools had deteriorated compared with other countries since a study five years ago, according to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study published yesterday. England was significantly lower in maths than the Pacific rim countries and eastern European countries like Bulgaria, Russia and Hungary. In western Europe, England was on a par with Denmark and Germany but lower than Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. But in science England was the equal or better than the rest of western Europe and behind only four of the countries surveyed: Japan, Korea, Singapore and the Czech Republic. England did slightly better than Scotland in maths and much better in science. Increased classroom time devoted to science since the introduction of the national curriculum could be one reason for the improvement, said Wendy Keys, co-author

## Lagging behind



of the report. During the same period maths teaching had been cut by about 20 minutes a week in English schools. She and fellow researchers at the National Foundation for Educational Research are also investigating curriculum, teaching methods and attitudes of teachers and pupils in all countries invited. Apart from denting the image of Scotland's superior education, the study ques-

## Ridings authority risks open war with Shephard

John Carvel  
and Sarah Ryle

THE education authority yesterday risked open warfare with Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, when it rejected her demand for a prompt inspection of its services to pupils and parents at its schools. Michael Higgins, chairman of education at Calderdale council, said priority should be given to restoring good schooling at the Ridings, which had to close temporarily last month after a breakdown of discipline. He suggested that discussions about the Government's request for Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector, to examine the authority's entire operations should be postponed until January. Mrs Shephard was understood to be furious last night about the council's "inadequate" response and considering retaliation. She is seek-

hard of picking a fight with Calderdale to distract attention from the results of an international study showing English schools trailing badly in maths. The row also came as business leaders savaged her claims that standards in schools have improved over the last five years. As Mrs Shephard boasted that the latest round of league tables showed pupils doing better than ever, the Institute of Directors argued that the results were based on inflated grades. Tim Melville-Ross, its director general, said: "Our members are the customers of the education system and they are very concerned about the basic numeracy and literacy of young people coming into employment. The improvement in exam results in England is significantly higher than it is in Scotland which has a different education system. We believe that this can only be due to grade inflation of GCSEs and A levels." The IOD is especially worried about poor primary level education. The head of its policy unit, Ruth Lea, said: "Gillian Shephard was telling us the other day how wonderful the reading standards of 11-year-olds is now, but we think they look pretty dire." She said children were not being adequately prepared for the future demands of business, especially in the fields of languages and maths.

ing powers in the Education Bill to order the inspection of local education authorities. Officials were exploring the extent of her authority to order an immediate inspection of all Calderdale schools to get a full picture by other means. The row flared when Mrs Shephard complained about the council's decision to refer the issue to an education sub-committee. Mr Woodhead had a team standing by to start the inspection on December 2. "Calderdale's handling of the issue is outrageous that the local education authority should be anything other than wholly co-operative in welcoming an independent Ofsted inspection," she said. Mr Higgins said he did welcome the proposal, but his priority is to ensure that the Ridings school continues to receive extensive support. That effort should not be disrupted, he said. "We are not dragging our feet." Labour accused Mrs Shep-

## Mathematics: top 20 countries

- 587; Russian Federation 585; Ireland 587; Canada 587; Sweden 518; New Zealand 508; England 506; Norway 505; United States 500; Latvia 493; Spain 487 (International average 513).



Peter McKay: declined to drop Daily Mail column

# Entertainments & Travel

THEATRE LONDON

**PAUL NICHOLAS**  
IN  
**ROBIN HOOD**  
AND THE BARKS IN THE WOOD  
FROM SAT 14 DEC  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**SUNSET BOULEVARD**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**THE CHERRY ORCHARD**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**THE BLUE BROTHERS**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**DIAL M FOR MURDER**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**MARGIE SMITH**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**MARGARET TYZACK**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**TALKING HEADS**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**ALAN BENNETT**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**OLIVER!**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**CATS**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**BY JEEVES**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**ART GALLERIES**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**ROCK & POP**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**THEATRE LONDON**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**WINNER!**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**'A RESOUNDING HIT'**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**CASH ON DELIVERY**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**'ART' ALONG**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**OPERA**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**  
WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
0771 413 3355

# Leading on Europe's fast track

## Royal wedding rumours in Spain

These days Chancellor Kohl prefers to talk of flexibility than of a hard core Europe, but his determination to implement joint policy-making by a small number of integrated EU states is unchanged.

Ian Traynor reports, in the fourth of his series, on Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action

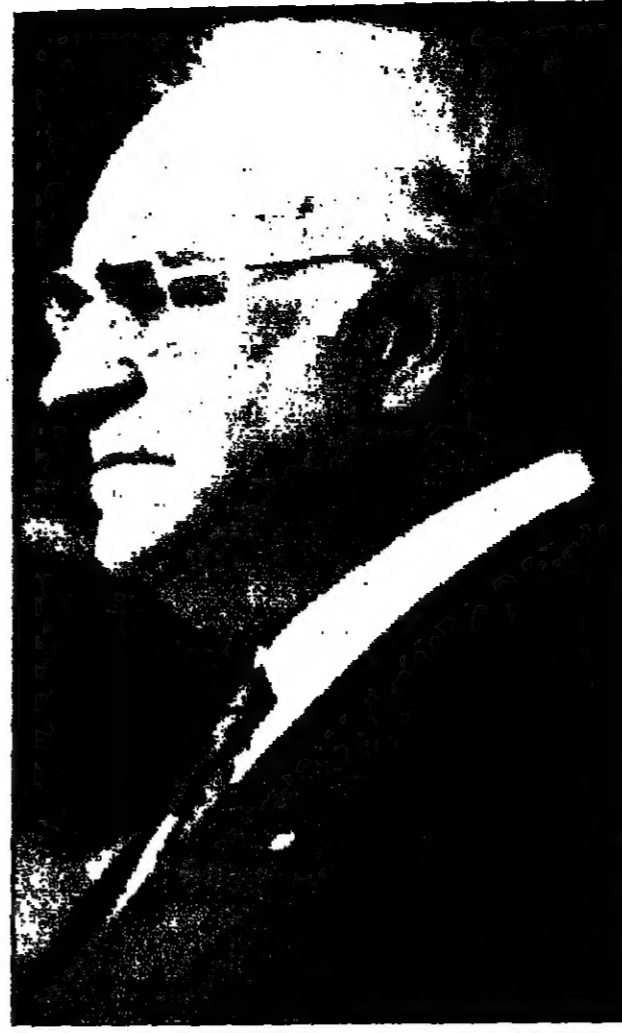
### Back to the future



Parallel to the hard core drive being pursued at the EU inter-governmental conference runs the effort to get a single European currency launched by the end of the century. The 1994 policy paper saw monetary union as...

Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action

Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action



Helmut Kohl: European division and impotence over the Bosnia crisis added to his resolve to make Europe powerful

### The German Question

It was in September 1994 that Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats raised eyebrows in Western capitals by floating the notion of a "hard core" Europe that would put Germany, France, and the Benelux states on a fast track to integration.

Such views, which might rankle in London, are not contentious in Bonn. An opposition foreign policy adviser said there was "no alternative" to the hard core concept.

Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action

Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action

Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action

Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action

Germany's quest to see Europe start to wield power before the proposed EU expansion to eastern Europe further dilutes the capacity for united action

WEDDING fever has gripped Spain's royal watchers as speculation grows that the heir to the throne, Prince Felipe, could become engaged to Princess Tatiana of Lichtenstein, a 25-year-old business student considered an ideal choice.

## Yeltsin falters into Minsk crisis

David Hearst in Moscow

VISIBLY frazier, President Boris Yeltsin took his first tentative steps in front of a television camera yesterday, assuring sceptical Russians that he was "ready for battle" after his heart operation.



that the operation produced the results.

Warning of his impending arrival back on the political scene, he said he would be calling his ministers and ministers to account.

taken place in the Russian city of Smolensk, midway between the Belarusian capital Minsk and Moscow. Mr Chernomyrdin was also due to attend.

### AUDIT COMMISSION

Read the story behind the headlines on:

**Misspent Youth: Young People and Crime** £20.00

call for your copy

# 0800 502030

Audit Commission Publications Hotline

### Belgian deputy PM goes before inquiry into child-sex allegations

THE Belgian deputy prime minister, Etio Di Rupo, fighting for his political life after allegations of sex with under-age boys, went to give evidence yesterday to the parliamentary commission investigating the charges, RTBF television said.

# DRAMATIC SAVINGS BARD NONE

## JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS AND SEE THE RSC FOR A FIVER!

### RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Sponsored by ALLIED DOMECQ

To mark a new season and a new sponsorship deal, the Royal Shakespeare Company and Allied Domecq are making Probably the World's Greatest Ticket Offer: HALF-PRICE tickets to great theatre for anyone 30 or under.

We've got 30,000 half-price tickets for plays in Stratford-upon-Avon and London's Barbican Theatre on sale NOW for anyone aged 30 or under. From *Mystery Plays* to *Merry Wives*, from *Macbeth* to *Much Ado*, there are 10 different plays to choose from, at prices from £5 to £13.

Find out how to get your half-price tickets in January and February by calling 0374 507599 for a free leaflet. And if you're over 30, don't despair - call the same number for information on buying half-price tickets as presents for younger friends or family.

But call now - you must book by 4 January

FIND US ON THE NET <http://www.royal-shakespeare.co.uk>

TELEPHONE 0374 507599

ALLIED DOMECQ, the RSC's principal sponsor, is the international spirits and retailing group whose brands include Beefeater, Teacher's, Tia Maria, Victoria Wine, Boskin-Robbins and Big Steak Pub. Both Allied Domecq and the RSC are aiming to make theatre more accessible to more people throughout the UK.

Clinton reluc

B

sent on

Driv

devis

20 soldier

YOU VI FOR ANY AGENCY TA STEP TO GW

08



Bombarding Mr Brown
But yesterday's missiles were well off-target

GENERALS always plan the next war on the basis of the previous one. Politicians take a similar approach to elections. That is why both parties believe that next year's general election will turn on tax and spending, just as the 1992 contest is generally deemed to have done.

defences of Mr Brown's. That is why they launched a serious pre-dawn bombardment against them yesterday, releasing a document claiming to expose 89 different Labour spending commitments costing an alleged £30 billion pounds, the equivalent to £1,200 in extra taxes for the average family every year.

Prevention is cheaper than cure
Britain's approach to crime policy needs a complete overhaul

FORGET the law-and-order rhetoric. Yesterday the Audit Commission looked at the reality. In a devastating report, based on extensive research into nine services which deal with juveniles, it set out a catalogue of waste, inefficiency and ineffectiveness.

cut the offender successfully. The average offender goes to youth court four times before sentence but some have up to 10 appearances. The average gap between arrest and sentence is 120 days.

Not so strict on Maastricht

How to reduce your budget deficit without really trying

THE MAASTRICHT Treaty is fast turning Europe into a paradise for accountants. The dash to qualify for monetary union (especially the criterion requiring budget deficits to be brought down under 3 per cent of gross domestic product) has produced innovation worthy of a Turner prize.

1999. In this way the Italian government believes it can raise taxes to meet Maastricht terms without reneging on its promise to the electorates not to raise taxes - the Paul Daniels theory of economics.



Letters to the Editor

Doctors sharpen their scalpels

I AM afraid Andrew Anderson must cope with another very angry, even hysterical GP (Letters, November 19). I don't know where he gets his facts from but they are a million miles from my experience.

on call to one in two and cover his surgeries. When I am on holiday he does the same for me. In effect you provide your own locum.

With rising practice expenses, my income this year is the same as five years ago. It is hardly surprising that the Government has never tried to change this status as it has every other aspect of our contract.

Eric Brindle, in drawing attention to dispensing doctors' earnings (Letters, November 16), will be astounded to learn that these doctors receive "reimbursement" of Value Added Tax which has not been paid.

An ode to Essex

DAVID McKie's proposal to divide Essex is timely and, from the point of view of those brought up in Thurrock - or Gormandy, as he prefers to call it - much to be welcomed (in praise of the cleavage of Essex, November 20).

gritty, modern. So shut yourselves up north of the A12 corridor, your lifeline to London, our inter-zonal frontier. Real life has always been lived south of it.

DAVID McKie is not as aware of the social make-up of the towns along the Crouch valley branch of the Great Eastern Railway as he would like to have us believe: they have already been well and truly Gormandied.

Briefs encounter

DR Blomfield (Letters, November 16) refers to a Netherlands study involving the wearing of underpants for 24 hours a day over six months. My wife informs me that, far from impairing reproductive potential, it would undoubtedly be extinguished.

THE allegation made by A Taylor (Letters, November 16) that members of the public need their postcode to report a gas escape is nonsense. Our staff have very clear instructions to gather information to identify where there is a problem.

Arms and the ban: don't dump them abroad

LARGELY drowned out in the first day of the firearms debate was a plea for the UK Government to halt exports of these guns (A farewell to cant, November 20). Both the public and politicians agree that these weapons put human life at risk.

that the UK's concerns about the dangers of weapons go beyond its borders. Geraldine O'Callaghan and Susannah Dyer, Research analysts, British American Security Information Council, Carrara House, 20 Embankment Place, London WC2N 6NN.

THE arms dealers who supplied the Rwandan regime before and during the 1994 genocide look like escaping their just deserts, thanks to registering on Mickey Mouse islands and the rumbblings of free-market politicians suddenly concerned about the loss of jobs. Such difficulties could be surmounted by indicting them at the International Court of Justice as accessories to genocide.

A Country Diary

WEARDALE: It's easy to overlook the strangeness of the commonplace in the countryside. Take ivy, for example - a plant that's unique in the British flora. It's our only native representative of a tropical and sub-tropical plant family called the Araliaceae.

Light at the end of the Chunnel

YOUR leader addressing the public's reaction to the Channel tunnel fire (November 20) was a well-balanced appraisal. People are right to consider the risks they run when engaging in any journey, be it long or short. So the better the balance of press coverage of transport accidents, the more accurate will be the general perception of relative risks.

FIRES on lorries are an everyday event. Most are dealt with quickly and never get reported. Fires which spread to tyres and wheels are extremely hard to deal with and usually result in the loss of the vehicle and load. This happens several times a week in the UK. On a cold, wet November night, an incipient lorry fire can easily go undetected. Put this fire in a warm, dry tunnel at 60mph and the chances of it spreading quickly rise dramatically.

WHY IS everyone so surprised and horrified by the disastrous fire in the Chunnel? The combination of polystyrene and concrete tunnel is the recipe for the mother of all flame-throwers. The result has rightly been described as "like a giant blowtorch". Polystyrene is used for its insulating and soundproofing properties and should be banned. (Prof) Eric Ayres, 4 Regent Square, London WC1H 8JZ.



Diary Dan Glaister

WITH the general election... wake up at the back, this is important... with the general election almost upon us, it is time for some pertinent questions...

MORE election news: the Diary is happy, nay, ecstatic to be able to announce the formation of a new political group...

AT LAST, some hard news from the set of Eyes Wide Shut, wild man director Stanley Kubrick's shrouded-in-secrecy film...

NO that God Rock has returned with the resurrection — geddit? — of Jesus Christ Superstar, it's time to sneak a look at some of the more inspired offerings for the Age of the Musical...

COMMISERATIONS to Trevor Froudfout, he moved to the model village of Turville 10 years ago... On the first morning, I looked out of my window to see Melvyn Bragg talking to John Mortimer and I thought, "This is going to be an interesting place..."

ONE question for the long-suffering Mrs Lilley, following the affirmation of her husband's true-blue heterosexuality to Hello! magazine: Why, Gail, why?



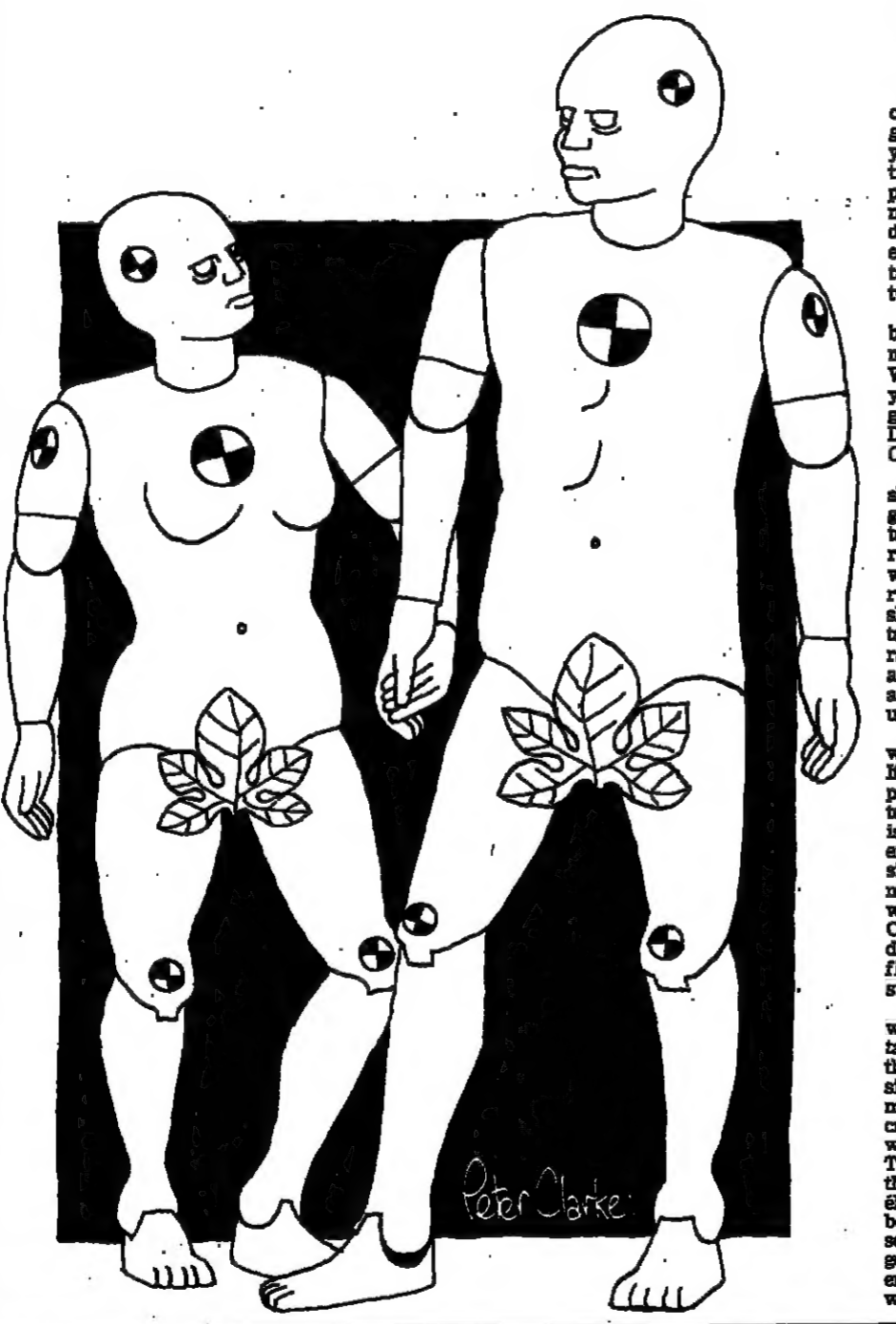
Feel free to bang the drums of Europe

Commentary Hugo Young

IF YOU had to think of a subject that is perfectly intelligible for putting to a referendum, you couldn't do better than European economic and monetary union...

Stephen Woolley rounds on the politicians who have banned the film Crash, and argues no good comes from such censorship: do they really think its viewers will go crashing their cars for kicks?

Head-on collision



Tell the truth about the Tunnel fire

Memo to Eurotunnel from Keith Harper, Transport Editor, on the obfuscation following what could have been a disaster

HERE you go again. At the first sign that something is wrong, you put up the shutters and say nothing. That was your belligerent attitude during the construction of the Channel Tunnel...

cerally opposed, one sees how far this project must shift before any government is likely to undertake it. A case now bedevilled by deep imponderables must somehow be transmuted into one of transcendent clarity before any Cabinet will risk putting it to the country.

That isn't impossible to imagine. I think it extinguishes the near-invisible prospect of sterling yielding to the euro in 1999. But it keeps open the chance of entry by 2002. If EMU goes on at the earlier date, it may not fall apart, it may then invite an urgent question: do you, the British, want to be left out of something that could otherwise destroy your lifeblood?

'Do you want to be left out of something that could otherwise destroy your lifeblood?'

a broad issue between pro and anti-Europeans. This is where the new all-party referendum promise is already a spur to change politics for the better.

The state of the broad issue is at present deplorable. There's little honest dialogue. The Europe debate in Britain has become one-sided. Victory goes to the loudest voices, the crudest scare-mongers, the least scrupulous fantasists, the most sentimental nationalists. We have a gov-

ernment much of whose work is inside the EU, running a country more than half of whose trade is with EU countries, peopled by ministers hardly one of whom will be caught making a statement of affection, support, solidarity or even minuscule approval for any aspect of EU activity. It is a government of faint-hearts, in thrall to a press that has surrendered objectivity to one-eyed hysteria, which drags the Labour Party, flapping and nervous, in its wake.

There are different reasons for this. In some quarters one can find reasoned rejection, often lately discovered, of British participation in the EU. Or one can see passion, not always paranoid, against the baleful influence of Brussels. There's also legitimate opposition, on either financial or political grounds, to EMU. The counter-argument on all these fronts, however, has been inhibited by fear. It has been incompetently put, arrogantly neglected. But also held back by a deep suspicion that the public will not wear it, because the public thinks "Europe" is a plot from which it has been excluded.

The promise of a referendum begins to eliminate that fear. Now that the voters know the issue will be put to the question, those who believe with passion that Britain belongs in Europe have no need to be intimidated. The thrill of paranoia is lifted. They need no longer be throttled by guilt. They can make an open case, knowing that the people will have the chance to judge it. If the right verdict is to come, the case starts, with some urgency, now. Changing the terms is a long haul. For the present state of national disillusion, the cowardice of Euro-phobes is as much to blame as the tireless chicanery of Euro-phobes. The referendum opens up their duty to repent.

MOVIES do not have much effect on people as some commentators like to claim; you are more likely to go out and kill someone not if you have just seen a provocative film, but if society is depriving you of your best self, if your life is dysfunctional and you are unemployed, or if you are a mental patient who has been turned out on to the streets.

It is just not good enough to blame "irresponsible" filmmakers for society's ills, as Westminster councillors did yesterday in response to Virginia Bottomley's criticisms of David Cronenberg's film Crash.

Politicians and councillors should be concentrating on getting things right for the people. If you are on the roads are fixed, the schools are working and the hospitals are running, Virginia Bottomley should look for more important ways to spend her time, rather than mouthing off about a film she has not even seen, and probably would not understand.

Crash is not a typical Hollywood film with Eddie Murphy. If you are going to expand people's minds, you are going to need to be a bit dangerous. It is difficult enough for producers to make films that are not simply cynical exercises in making money. And people with the intelligence of David Cronenberg and British producer Jeremy Thomas make films that need to be subversive.

The notion that Crash is a work of art does not seem to be taken into consideration. If they feel the film is so offensive and would cause mental obsession with car crashes, why did they not act when the book was published? There seems to be one rule for the masses, another for the elite. Readers of JC Bellard's book have not gone off to have sex in crashed cars. I have just gone through a similar experience with Michael Collins. A whole bunch of so-called

Civil Service leaks lead to corrosion



Ian Aitken

WHITEHALL legend has it that there was once a private secretary to a senior Conservative minister who loyally did her job on behalf of the government during the working day, but always took time before she went home to tell her boss exactly what she thought of everything he'd just done...

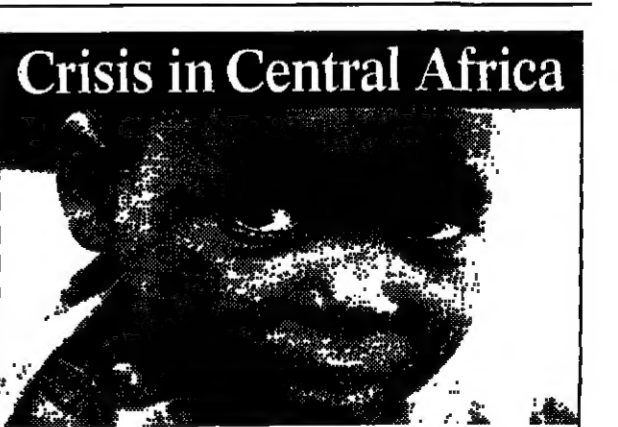
The private secretary in question was, I believe, Clare Short — now an equally forthright Labour frontbencher. Her ministerial boss is alleged to have been Mark (now Lord Carlisle, a Home Office minister during the Heath government who was subsequently sacked by Mrs Thatcher as an incorrigible wet.)

The story has a certain old-world charm, since Whitehall has changed since then. Nowadays, a similarly minded civil servant would hesitate to speak his or her mind for fear of blighting their career. Instead they would probably photocopy the evidence of what was going on, stuff it into a plain brown envelope, and post it off to some shadow minister or better still, deliver it to Dale Campbell-Savours.

This development has generated some splendid exposure stories, many of them in this newspaper. Moreover, they have helped to keep our system of democratic accountability working in a civilised way.

For 30 years I operated largely on the basis of leaks. Most of them were "official" leaks, slipped out on purpose through Whitehall's formal network of private briefings, and therefore essentially government propaganda. But the really good stories — the ones which the government didn't want us to know — invariably came from "unofficial" sources.

That usually meant politicians, a few of whom were, God bless them, simply people who couldn't keep a secret. Most sources, however, were skilled practitioners in the art of the purposeful leak. Until Mrs Thatcher took the stage, leaks from career civil servants (as opposed to so-called ministerial "advisers" from outside



"Help me find my mummy"

Imagine the terror and panic for a child separated from loved ones in a vast crowd of people. This is the reality facing thousands of children in Rwanda today as their families make the long trek home.

Save the Children has already provided emergency food and medical supplies to help save lives and our staff are working round-the-clock to protect and reunite children with their families. But we need your help to continue this vital work.

Please make a donation now. Post the coupon below or call us on 0171-703 5400 (24 hour hotline)

Save the Children

Save the Children Fund, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR.

Yes, I want to help Save the Children. Please accept my gift of:

£50  £15  £10  Other £

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms: Address: Postcode: I enclose my:  Cash  Postal Order  Cheque  CAV  Or charge my:  MasterCard  AmEx  Visa  Diners  CAP

Account No: Signature: Card Expiry Date:

Save the Children Dept. 605079 Save the Children FREEPOST London SE5 8BR Registered Charity No. 213890 London SE5 8BR



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Freemans sale order leaks

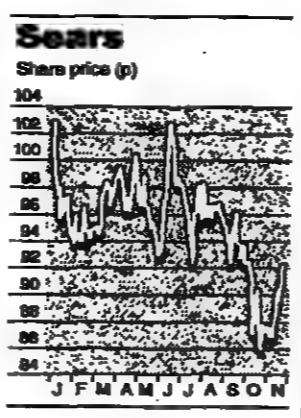
### Strong puts stop to Sears fumbling

Paul Murphy

Liam Strong, the embattled chief executive of Sears, is set to respond to intense institutional pressure for a shake-up at the retailing giant by putting the group's Freemans mail order operation up for sale.

City analysts reckon the business, which includes titles such as One to One and a cable TV operation Home Shopper, as well as the main Freemans tome, might fetch \$500 million.

pressure to consolidate the group's mail-order of retailing interests for the last four years. Mr Strong's efforts to sort out Sears' unwieldy shoe businesses came unstuck in the June when Stephen Hinchcliffe's Pace group — to which Sears had sold around 400 stores — collapsed.



Investment bank M&P, who is forecasting pre-exceptional profits of £115 million for the group this year against the £120 million achieved last year, has suggested Sears might be worth 120p-a-share or £1.8 billion on a "break-up valuation."

Institutional investors have been irritated by the non-performance of Sears stock which — at 92 1/2p yesterday — has not made any headway since Mr Strong joined the company in 1992. But chairman Rob Reid has continued to stress his support for his chief executive at every public opportunity.

through a special dividend, but the group is also thought to be keen to pump money into the development of the Selfridges department store business.

### Notebook

## Good morning to positive option



Edited by Alex Brummer

WHEN the Tories launched its tax and spend offensive against Labour at the last election it had little choice: the green shoots of recovery were barely visible, so going negative was the only option for holding on at Downing Street.

life and investment services, said that people were increasingly aware that they could not rely on either the state or their employers to provide for them in their old age. This was a serious issue facing our society and NatWest felt it was proper that it should put forward some practical solutions.



Heads up... A virtual reality headset developed by the EU-funded Mirage research project managed by the Independent Television Commission is demonstrated at the ITC Engineering Exhibition in London. Scientists at Mirage are developing methods of evaluating the psychological impact upon the viewer of such technologies. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID SILLING

## Jingling of tills music to Tories

Richard Thomas and Teresa Hunter

BUOYANT consumer confidence, building society windfalls and a strengthening housing market are fueling an autumn high street mini-boom, according to figures released yesterday.

signal that consumers are becoming less price-sensitive. David Bloom, UK economist at James Capel, said: "The worry is that with the economy picking up and the 'feelgood' factor returning, consumers will be prepared to pay higher prices."

## Greyhound stadium loses dog eat dog battle

Ian King

GREYHOUND racing at London's Hackney Stadium is to come to an end after the dog track — which went into receivership in October last year — was yesterday sold to a property developer for an undisclosed sum.

## Buffeting for utilities ICI attacks US takeovers

Chris Barrie and Simon Beavis

THE Trade Secretary, Ian Lang, came under new pressure to block further electricity takeovers last night as other industrial groups attacked the site for a new multi-million pound leisure complex, which could create hundreds of jobs in one of London's most deprived areas.

ence to the Commons trade and industry committee. With other industrial groups it launched a stinging attack on the structure of the electricity industry and its privatisation and warned that power and voltage cuts were on the increase.

the OFT announced it would need up to a further 15 days to reach its verdict on whether CalEnergy's bid should be referred to the Monopolies Commission by Mr Lang.

## The Budget

What was in it for you? The Budget's distinguished panel of economic commentators offer their insights into the Chancellor's plans for the coming year.

## loD defuses Mawhinney torpedo

Simon Beavis

DR BRIAN Mawhinney's attempt to torpedo Labour's windfall tax plans backfired yesterday as the right-wing Institute of Directors admitted the economic impact of the levy would be "insignificant" and a leading shareholder group contradicted Tory claims that it would hit customers.

On Monday, the Conservative chairman claimed a windfall tax on privatised utilities pitched at £5 billion would cost individual customers £192. He said the plans were "heartstopping".

Richard Baron, the loD's taxation executive, said: "The windfall tax is a very tempting option for Labour, but there are clear difficulties with it. Encouraging competition would be a better way forward."

Investors would be hit by falling share prices and dividends, while pension funds with large utility holdings and employee share-owners would also be hit.

## Cable lift-off

WHAT a change the management reshuffle has brought to Cable & Wireless. First the unexpected deal merging Mercury with leading cable companies and now sound financial results.

YESTERDAY'S interim figures, with profits before tax and exceptional items up 9 per cent at £673 million, was better than the City expected. Telecom analysts, who over the years have become used to unpleasant surprises in the C&W figures, were pleased by the signs of underlying growth.

## Pensions putsch

NATWEST is not normally reckoned to be a maverick in the most inspired operators. It has developed an unfortunate reputation for over paying for acquisitions which prove to add somewhat less to the business than may have been anticipated.

The arrival of Dick Brown, the American businessman, as chief executive earlier this year has transformed the mood at C&W. The telecom industry is starting to regard it as a serious player again.

## Campaigners find workers on £1 a day

Martin Halsall

POVERTY campaigners will today call for changes in employment law when they unveil a "depressing insight" into the working lives of agency workers, some of whom earn as little as a pound a day.

in the same workplace, according to the survey. "The agency workers surveyed give a depressing insight into what so-called 'flexible' employment actually means for many people," said Barry Navarro, the report's author.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

|                |                |                   |                   |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Australia 2.04 | France 8.25    | Italy 2.482       | Singapore 2.28    |
| Austria 17.26  | Germany 2.45   | Malta 0.5780      | South Africa 7.58 |
| Belgium 55.42  | Greece 330.00  | Netherlands 2.74  | Spain 206.00      |
| Canada 2.19    | Hong Kong 2.88 | New Zealand 2.29  | Sweden 10.94      |
| Cyprus 0.74    | India 58.72    | Norway 10.25      | Switzerland 2.88  |
| Denmark 5.44   | Ireland 0.9702 | Portugal 248.00   | Turkey 163.949    |
| Finland 7.53   | Israel 5.41    | Saudi Arabia 6.25 | USA 1.0419        |

Pitted against the past



A SMALL West Glamorgan community ravaged by unemployment is at the centre of a classic conflict of interest over plans to create an open-cast coal mine on an Iron Age site of unique archaeological value. *by David Gott*

A Cardiff-based mining company, LEJH, yesterday saw its application to mine 140,000 tonnes of coal at Brynates, near Seven Stans, deferred for a month by Neath Port Talbot council's development committee following protests by Friends of the Earth and archaeologists.

The local community backs the new mine as LEJH has agreed to remove an unsightly tip as well as creating jobs. Paul Graves-Brown (pictured), an archaeological consultant and Swansea FoE member, said: "Any

planning approval without a proper archaeological excavation would be a catastrophe. "This is a unique site of national importance both to Wales and to Britain as a whole."

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

News in brief

Abbey National woos super-rich Asians

ABBEY National is joining the growing number of high-street financial institutions offering offshore bank accounts for wealthy Asians by setting up a joint venture with City-based Hambros Bank and Dah Sing Financial Holdings of Hong Kong. The institution, which will be registered in the Channel Islands, will be targeted at clients in Hong Kong and other parts of South-east Asia with a minimum of £150,000 to invest. Abbey and Hambros will each put in \$6.6 million to set up the proposed D A H Private Bank, Dah Sing, which has an existing Hong Kong client base, will retain control. — *Patrick Donovan*

Chiroscience buys Darwin

CHIROSCIENCE, the Cambridge-based biotechnology company, is buying US genetic engineering specialist Darwin Molecular Corporation — in which Microsoft's Bill Gates is a shareholder — in a deal worth about \$72 million. Chiroscience's chief executive, Dr John Padfield, said the deal — officially a merger — would enable each company to tap into the expertise of the other. Chiroscience was founded in 1982 and floated on the Stock Exchange two years later at 150p per share. The shares have since rocketed in value on the back of biotechnology's City popularity. — *Pauline Spragg*

Courtaulds looks to Tencel

CHEMICAL company Courtaulds yesterday shrugged off disappointing first half results, pointing to growth in its continuing operations and the sustained success of the new fibre Tencel. Pre-tax profit for the six months fell from \$88 million to \$84 million but that was because of disposals. Operating profit from continuing businesses rose by 7 per cent to \$80 million, from sales of just over \$1 billion. — *Roger Cowe*

Chubb poised on the Rim

CHUBB Security, the locks and alarms group, is to boost its presence in the Asia-Pacific region through the acquisition of one of Australia's leading manufacturers of fire-fighting equipment. It is paying A\$230 million (£104 million) for the fire protection and access control businesses of James Hardie Industries, which together made a profit last year of £2.8 million on turnover of £115 million. — *Dominic Walsh*

US carrier orders Boeing jets

AMERICAN Airlines, British Airways' proposed partner, will today announce a \$3.75 billion order for "several hundred" Boeing passenger jets to take it through to the year 2020. The new planes will replace older models in the US carrier's fleet, like Airbus and Fokker. — *Keith Harper*

Foods chief backs EMU as sterling hits profit

Roger Cowe

CHRIS Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods which has been buffeted by currency fluctuations and European Union agriculture policy, yesterday renewed calls for monetary union to reduce the volatility of company profits. Introducing six months' financial results, which included a dismal performance from the company's dairy business, Mr Haskins, an avowed Labour supporter, said the pound's gyrations had exaggerated dairy profits last year, and had now driven them down too far. "If there is one company chairman that thinks EMU is a good deal, it's me", he said. Profit from Northern's dairy division slumped by \$2 million to \$23 million, largely because of the impact of sterling's strengthening on commodity milk prices. Falling prices over the past year for commodities such as



Chris Haskins... for monetary union

skimmed milk powder and butter fat had resulted in losses on these products as the price of milk through the dominant UK supplier, Milk Marque, has risen. Describing the system for marketing milk as "a farce", Mr Haskins called for a reduction in prices in the next tendering round to reflect the fall in open market prices. But he

said the dairy division should not suffer further pain following the extensive rationalisation of the past three years, during which Northern has cut the number of dairies from 10 to four.

He dismissed suggestions that he was ready to sell the dairy business, saying: "After all the pain of the last few years we would be really stupid to get out now."

But he predicted there would be further rationalisation of the industry over the next couple of years to reflect falling consumption of liquid milk and the continuing shift from doorstep delivery to supermarket purchases.

Northern confirmed the message on Tuesday from rival Unigate that the slump in doorstep sales was slowing down.

Mr Haskins said sales were now falling at a rate of 9 per cent a year, compared to 13 per cent last year, despite a recent price increase of 1p per pint which brought the price to 39p.



Underside Dan Atkinson

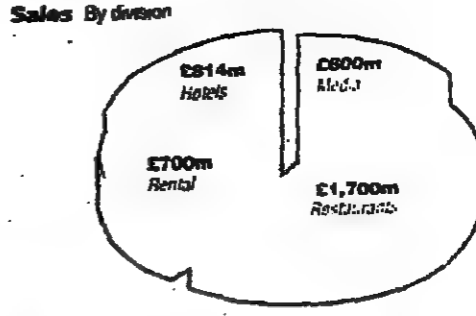
WOULD-be cine mogis: PolyGram's film offshoot has eight places on a course for those keen to develop "the business skills, experience and contacts... essential in today's filmed entertainment sector". The scheme is run jointly with the European Union Media Programme, which infamously part-bankrolled a TV

thriller in which the evil British murdered lots of people to frustrate European unity. PolyGram is well-placed to advise on cinematic success: in its interim results, operating losses on the film side were down from about £52 million last time to £48 million-odd.

SO WHAT were the final 10 words of Kevin Maxwell's defence? The Guardian man's shorthand on November 29 recorded Alan Jones QC as quoting an Elizabethan poet thus: "More geese

OUTLOOK/ Chairman's £100m pledge on savings looks very attainable as Forte businesses come under the spell of new owners after only eight months, says IAN KING

| Granada            |          | Main activity:                        |     |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Stock market value | £7.5bn   | Hotels, restaurants, media and rental |     |
| Share price        | 881 1/2p |                                       |     |
| Workforce          | 79,500   |                                       |     |
| Interest cover     | 3.4      |                                       |     |
|                    | £        | % change                              |     |
| Sales              | 2.6bn    |                                       | +50 |
| Pre-tax profit     | 480m     |                                       | +37 |
| Earnings per share | 42.3p    |                                       | +8  |
| Dividend           | 13.0p    |                                       | +11 |



Granada profit justifies means

DURING his epic £3.9 billion takeover bid for Forte much abuse was hurled at Granada chairman Gerry Robinson, not least over his pledge to wring £100 million in savings out of the prey in its first year under his control.

As Granada unveiled its annual results yesterday — pre-tax profits up 37 per cent to £480 million in the year to September — that £100 million figure was very much to the fore, and Mr Robinson was adamant that it will be achieved.

Yet it is a delicious irony that, amidst a solid set of figures, two of the best performing businesses in Granada's ever-expanding portfolio are the Exclusive Hotels and Wellcome Break motorway services chain, both former Forte assets and both up for sale.

According to Mr Robinson, this is no coincidence — Wellcome Break's profits had been static or falling for several years and were ripe for turnaround, both it and the Exclusives benefiting from Granada's aggressive management.

If yesterday's results are anything to go by, the more damning criticism that can be applied to Granada is the fact that profits growth at many of its older businesses have slowed down. For instance, in television — the group's traditional heartland — Granada TV notched up a mere 3 per cent improvement in sales, while the more recently acquired LWT managed 11 per cent. Rentals, which five years

ago accounted for almost 90 per cent of group earnings, saw profits grow by a paltry 3 per cent, while sales actually fell after further shop closures. Such figures almost certainly justify the arguments put forward by Mr Robinson's adversaries: over recent years — LWT's Sir Christopher Bland in 1993-94, Sir Rocco Forte in 1995-96 — that Granada needs large, high-profile takeovers to keep expanding.

In fairness to Mr Robinson, and his chief executive Charles Allen, the impressive profits growth achieved at

both LWT and Forte has fully justified the apparently ruthless way in which they were snapped up. This is fully borne out by yesterday's results. In only eight months under new ownership, £30 million in extra profits has been squeezed from the old Forte businesses. Of the businesses up for sale, Mr Allen said yesterday that plans for a sale of Wellcome Break in April — as dictated by the Office of Fair Trading — are well advanced, while the next two months will see the piecemeal sale of more Exclusives. On Tuesday it announced the first disposal, of London's Hyde Park

Hotel to Mountain Oriental for £86 million. Of the hotels, Granada intends to keep the Posthouse chain — bringing higher returns through a more aggressive pricing system, while the Meridian Hotels chain — subject of a highly publicised U-turn by Granada during the bid — flourishes.

In restaurants, the biggest contributor to group profits, Granada continues to overhaul the Little Chef chain. Meanwhile, brand tie-ups with the likes of Burger King, Harry Ramsden's and Rock Island Diner are also being introduced. The Travelodge chain looks set for expansion, with more than 3,000 new rooms planned over the next three years.

That leaves the betwixt rentals and media businesses, now the smallest parts of Granada's activities, which even Mr Robinson concedes could exist as a separately quoted outfit.

A spin-off looks unlikely for the time being though, not least because Thorn EMI's experience has shown that once a demerger is talked about, the City is not interested in anything else. Besides, there is still good money to be made from TV, although the long-awaited full bid for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees will not materialise until that company's share price drops to more realistic levels. This explains why Mr Robinson was at pains yesterday to rule out a sale of Granada's BSkyB stake in the "short to medium term". It is also why Granada may yet have a tilt at a weaker-looking media rival like Pearson.

The irony is that two of the best performers in an expanding portfolio are both up for sale

called The Silver Swan. Who, back in Merrie England, was plagiarising whom? One for Ye Serious Fraude Office, methinks. Or perhaps not.

SWANNING off to Merri Lynch is Goldman Sachs's media analyst Neil Blackley, his exit marked by cries of "Lee Majors!" (the actor who played the Six Million Dollar Man). That's right, Mr Blackley is replacing Merrill's ex-media-ites, Richard Dale and David Forster, for six very large ones over two years.

ECCENTRIC Ladyland: Governor Eddie George has fingered what it is banks do to deserve all that legal mollycoddling and those shylocking interest rates: they take risks. He told the Treasury select committee on Monday this is the heart of their social contribution. Interesting, then, to note the explosive growth in credit derivatives, instruments allowing banks to insure against sour loans (i.e. risk). Such business is forecast to hit \$100 billion by 2000. What will the banks then actually be doing?

**Go home**  
and get 40% more done today.

When you work from home you can still have all the benefits of the office, but without the interruptions. Let BT provide you with a modem to link a home PC to the office computer network. It allows you to access any document, send and receive messages or faxes and even print out on the office printer. To find out how you could get 40% more out of your day, call BT Businessconnections on Freephone 0800 800 800 now.

Freefone 0800 800 800

Work smarter not just harder

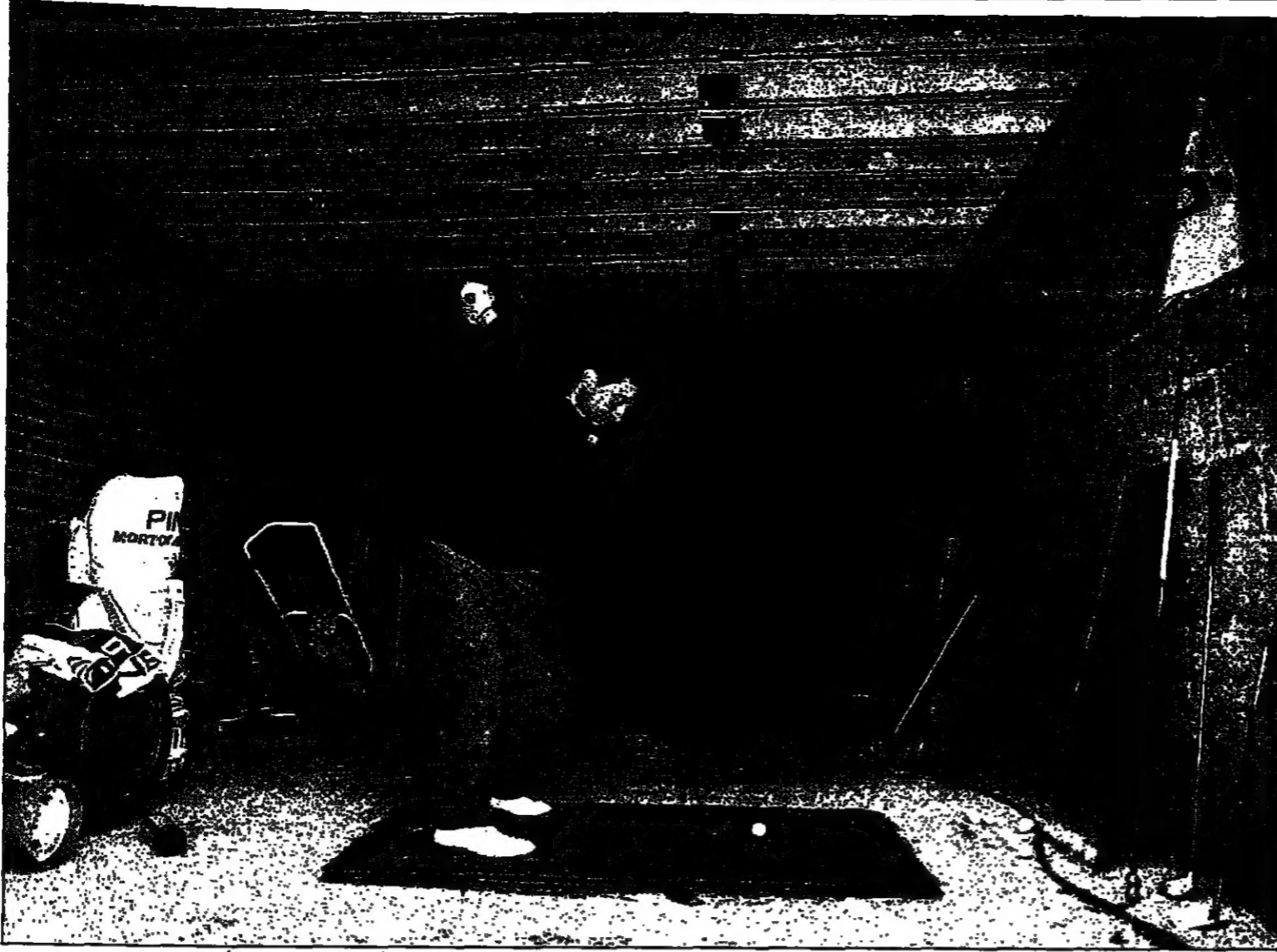
BT

WORKING FROM HOME  
Freephone 0800 800 800 e-mail: workingfromhome@bt.com

سبک کار من الامثل

Golf

The silent posting of a figure 7 for one hole against a name can have the same effect as the whoosh and thud of a guillotine blade in cutting off a career



Back to basics... David Williams gets into the swing of things in his garage. He finds himself back at school having missed 17 cuts out of 27 TOM DENNIS

David Davies on the professional life and death that is today's European Qualifying School

Heads will roll in fight for green card

TO INNOCENT eyes it is only a leader-board, a device for indicating who has done what. There are several at every tournament and there is one at San Roque in Spain, the venue for today's PGA European Tour final Qualifying School for those who wish to play top-class professional golf next year.

played well enough to get their card. If they have, there is the possibility of riches. If they have not, there is not. It has a hideous fascination and those who gather round it would, in another age, have done so at the foot of the guillotine. The silent posting of a figure 7 as a score for one hole against a man's name can have the same effect as the whoosh and thud of the blade in the cutting off of a career.

He has a hideous fascination and those who gather round it would, in another age, have done so at the foot of the guillotine. The silent posting of a figure 7 as a score for one hole against a man's name can have the same effect as the whoosh and thud of the blade in the cutting off of a career.

travelling expenses, and now it was all for nothing. The leader-board is no respecter of reputations. Every year there are bewildered professionals who stand in front of it, unable to believe what it tells them; that the only career they had known was now closed to them. One year, 1992, it was David Williams, a pleasant and civilised man attached to the Woburn Golf and Country Club.

he was facing ruin. He went back to the school he had first attended when he turned professional, in 1979, a place he thought, and devoutly wished, he would never return to.

ing to go back to the school in 1993, where he failed again. Digging deep, he went for more invites and this time made enough to keep his card. In 1994 and 1995 he played well enough, just to keep it, but in those two years he was 110th and 121st, making barely enough to cover expenses.

Racing Richards has four-star brandy option

EVERYTHING Gordon Richards touches seems to turn to gold and the trainer with the Midas touch has an 18 carat chance of lifting the Hennessy Gold Trophy for the second time in 117 years on Saturday week.

"I thought he did it very well," said Richards. "The Greenalls Gold Cup might be a realistic target for him later in the season and I'm sure he's the type that will handle his type that will handle Aintree well in due course."

Unguided Missile was added to the Greystoke trainer's powerful team for the Newbury race after an impressive victory in the Edward Hamner Memorial Chase at Haydock yesterday.

PERTEMPS, the recruitment specialist, are to take over the sponsorship of the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Wincanton runners and riders with form guide

Table with columns for race number, time, and names of runners/riders. Includes sections for 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00, 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00.

Sedgefield

Table with columns for race number, time, and names of runners/riders. Includes sections for 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00, 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00.

Warwick

Table with columns for race number, time, and names of runners/riders. Includes sections for 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00, 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00.

Results

Table with columns for race name, winner, and time. Includes sections for HAYDOCK, WINCANTON, WARWICK, SEDGEFIELD.

Table with columns for race name, winner, and time. Includes sections for WINCANTON, WARWICK, SEDGEFIELD.

Table with columns for race name, winner, and time. Includes sections for WINCANTON, WARWICK, SEDGEFIELD.

Table with columns for race name, winner, and time. Includes sections for WINCANTON, WARWICK, SEDGEFIELD.

RACELINE logo and contact information: 0930 1684, WINCANTON, WARWICK, SEDGEFIELD.

Blurred for the first time... SEDGEFIELD: 12.40 Flyaway Birds, 1.40 Rye Crossing, Allchangeur, WINCANTON: 2.00 Stormhill Pilgrim, 4.00 Mr Jasper, WARWICK: 3.50 Evezio Ruft.

Soccer

Premiership: Liverpool 1, Everton 1

Speed spoils Liverpool's night

LIVERPOOL chose the most inopportune of moments to fluff their lines. On the night which matters most in a divided city, they were eight minutes away from a victory that would have taken them back to the top of the Premiership.



Close encounter... Liverpool's McManaman shoots despite the attentions of Everton's Barmby last night

An opening phase of less effort was notable for the departure after 17 minutes of the limping McManaman, the man most likely to unpick Everton's mean defence.

But Liverpool were not long denied. Four minutes later, after another Bjornebye corner had not been cleared, Robbie Fowler rose unchallenged to meet a Redknapp cross and send a header looping over Southall and just under the bar.

Ferguson's return to senior football after two months of injury and suspension could be delayed no longer. The big man moved from dugout to pitch at the start of the second half. His long balls from the heart of Everton deflected Liverpool manna. Barely fit though he was, Ferguson had only to shape to leap to

force the Everton supporters onto the edges of their seats. Everton's best spell of the night followed. Chances were still infrequent but parity should have been restored after 68 minutes. A combination of Hincliffe's trickery and Speed's neat control saw the former Leeds man free in-

side the penalty area. Astonishingly, he drove his shot straight at James. Liverpool's James, McAlister, Wright, Grant, Smithson, Buckley, McKernan, Collymore, Timm, Barnes, Redknapp, Thomas, Fowler, Ferguson, Southall, Barrett, Grayson, Watson, Hincliffe, Kanchelskii, Ferguson, Goss, Parsons, Grant, Speed, Harvey, Scott. Referee: S Lodge (Barnsley).

Lee gives Neal £4m to resolve City's problems

FRANCIS LEE, the Manchester City chairman, yesterday allocated £4 million to the caretaker manager Phil Neal to buy new players in an attempt to pull the club out of its ever-worsening crisis.

Although Neal has been given no guarantee that he will succeed Steve Coppell on a permanent basis, he has been provided with funds to introduce players to a senior squad bereft of quality and experience. Neal's first target is striker Paul Kitson, languishing in Newcastle reserves two years after his £2.25 million move from Derby.

Rugby League

Lindsay hails global game

Euro League on ITV

Champions League, Group A: Rangers 2, Grasshopper 1

McCoy and Rangers break their duck

ALLY McCoy's first goals in the Champions League, one from the penalty spot, were the highlight of Rangers' first victory in Group A - indeed their first since March 93 at home to Brugis.

Yet another right Metz from Srnicek costs Magpies dear

Michael Walker on the Uefa Cup problems posed by Newcastle's keeper

ALTHOUGH it is one of the most obvious truths in football - that a goalkeeper's good reputation is more fragile than any of his teammates' - it is also the one most frequently overlooked.

Wives call foul as female ref joins post-match shower

Sport in brief

Snooker

Basketball

Rugby Union

Tennis

Squash

Ice Hockey

Fixtures

Soccer

Results

Badminton

Chest Infection

The 1997 Guide to Quality Watches. 140 colour pages packed with advice & essential info. A must for anyone investing over £100 in a watch. For just £4.95 plus 95p P+P. Credit Cards-01733 990155. Cheques & P.O.'s - 01733 990156. Also available at selected Quality Jewellers.

Wives call foul as female ref joins post-match shower. FEMALE football referee who stripped off to shower with players after matches found herself in more hot water yesterday when she was charged by the FA with bringing the game into disrepute. An inquiry into Janet Fewings was ordered after the irate wives and girlfriends of players blew the whistle on the 41-year-old mother of four and called foul. Fewings now faces a fine, ban or the loss of her referee's registration if she is found guilty.

SPORT IN BRIEF. Snooker: Paul Hunter, who as a 17-year-old beat Alan McManus in the UK Championship at the Preston Guild Hall last year, has returned to reach the televised last 16, which starts on Saturday, with wins over Willie Thorne and squarey James Wattana, writes Clive Everton. The 9-5 win puts him against Terry Murphy, conqueror of the world No. 8 Ronnie O'Sullivan. Stephen Hendry, the holder, scored a 9-5 win over Rob Milkins, another second season professional, and will next meet the winner of the match between Anthony Hamilton and David Gray, who was English amateur champion last year at the age of 18 years and two months. Billy Snaddons, one of a cohort of able young Scots who provide impressive back-up to the World Cup-winning trio of Hendry, John Higgins and McManus, emerged a 9-7 winner over Rod Lawler, the world No. 20. Badminton: Peter Knowles begins the defence of his Scottish Open title in Glasgow today hoping for a chance of revenge against Ji Xiang-peng of China. Snooker: Peter Knowles's straight-games defeat by Ji enabled the visitors to square the series 3-3 in Sheffield on Tuesday, and their quarter-final meeting seems more likely after the withdrawal last night of Jens Olsion, the second seed and Swedish No. 1, who has a chest infection. Chest Infection: The Houston Rockets centre Hakeem Olajuwon is undergoing tests after being taken to hospital with an irregular heartbeat during Tuesday night's game against Minnesota. "Hakeem went through this before in 1991," said a club spokesman Tim Frank. "I don't think we're looking at anything of severe magnitude."



# Sports Guardian

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group C: Manchester Utd 0, Juventus 1

# United fall for sucker punch

David Lacey

**P**ASSIONATE Old Trafford and an inspired second half from Ryan Giggs could not save Manchester United from another home defeat last night. Juventus winning with a first-half penalty from Alessandro Del Piero.

Now United will have to beat Rapid Vienna in Austria in a fortnight's time to give themselves the best chance of reaching the quarter-finals.

If the visit of the Champions Cup holders could not produce some of the old-time fervour at the ground then nothing ever would. Three weeks earlier, when Manchester United had seen their 40-year-old unbeaten European home record fall to Fenwick, there had been a lack of passion both on and off the field.

Now was the moment for players and fans to put things right. In theory, a point might have been enough but this was no time to be thinking of percentages.

United's followers might wave the flags, however, but Juventus it was who set the standard at the start with a series of broad, sweeping attacks that had the United defenders tumbling back desperately to cover.

Any thoughts that Juventus might be keeping their powder dry for Tuesday's World Club Championship match

against River Plate in Tokyo were quickly dispelled. With Zidane, Deschamps, Jugovic and Di Livio powering past Butt and Keane in midfield, Boksic soon found opportunities to get behind defenders.

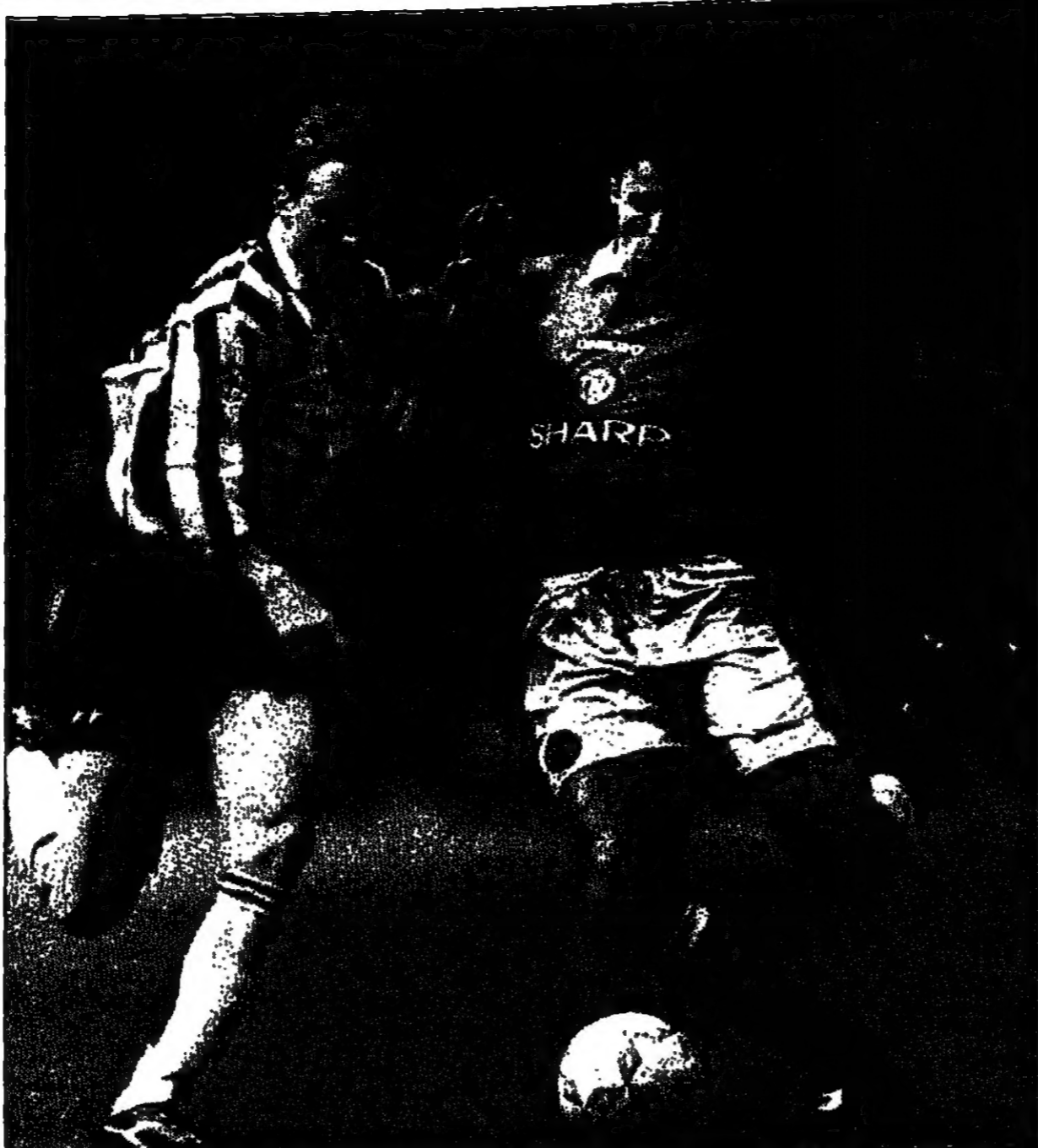
For a while the English champions were trapped in their own third of the field. Something approaching panic set in as early as the third minute when Zidane's centre was half-cleared by Schmeichel and a miscue by Butt momentarily left Del Piero facing an empty net.

Del Piero was unable to exploit the situation and when May met Beckham's corner with a header that skimmed the Juventus bar, Old Trafford hoped the crisis had passed.

Some hope; in the next instant a limping Phil Neville gave way to McClair, necessitating a reshuffle which saw Keane withdrawn to centre-back and Johnsen taking Neville's place on the left.

The precious opportunities, when they turned up, needed to be taken. Certainly Cantona should have done better in the 18th minute when a free-kick from Beckham on the right was cleared straight to where the Frenchman was lurking to the left of goal. Cantona had a lot of net to aim at but dragged his shot wide of the far post.

Still, with Beckham now beginning to show signs of finding space behind Torricelli on the right and Giggs ready to take on opponents for speed,



Ball-watching... Alan Boksic and Ronny Johnsen keep their eyes on the ball at Old Trafford. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEEL

United had at least seen off the initial onslaught by the half-hour.

Yet the contrast in style and technique remained stark. Cantona, his influence peripheral, and Solskjaer

hardly posed the problems for Juventus that Boksic and his cohorts were creating for United at the other end.

The face of Cantona might adorn many a United flag, but Zidane was the principal fa-

lour inspiration and 10 minutes before half-time he instigated the move which led to Juventus going in front. Deschamps, a fellow Frenchman, gathered his pass before finding Del Piero scuttling towards the right-hand corner of the penalty area.

But, suckered into making a tackle as the Italian crossed the 18-yard line, gave away a penalty which Del Piero thumped into the roof of the United net. By half-time only Schmeichel's agility in saving Boksic's shot on the turn had kept United in the contest.

The frustrating thing for United was that, outplayed though they undoubtedly had been, chances still fell their way and were still being missed, usually by Cantona.

Shortly before half-time, from Beckham's excellent cross, he headed over the bar. Shortly after, when Giggs's through ball left him with only Peruzzi to beat, Cantona

still could not outwit the Juventus goalkeeper.

Fortunately for United, Del Piero proved equally profligate when Ferrara's pass left him in a similarly inviting situation. With the ball bobbing, his shot sailed over the bar.

As Giggs exploited a slip by Di Livio before shooting only a fraction too high, United clung to the hope that a one-goal deficit will always offer.

The strength of the header Solskjaer put just wide after 65 minutes kept up Old Trafford's spirits, then with seven minutes to go Cantona almost grabbed the equaliser, but his dipping half volley from outside the area bounced frustratingly off the crossbar.

Out of the ring Christy can look as devilishly wistful as a soft-focus Doris Day or as sparkily and sex-appeal knowing as Meg Ryan. She is no smouldering glamour-puss

# Sitting pretty but packing an ugly punch



Frank Keating

**O**UTCRY over women in the ring," said the headline. "Outcry" will be the word, too, if they ever let Mrs Christy Martin loose on the boxing bills of Britain. She hits to hurt and seldom misses. For the sake and safety of the home-based sorority, women's lib should frame a few amendments, fast.

The headline on Tuesday followed the Amateur Boxing Association's decision to allow females aged 10 or over to fight in Britain as amateurs for the first time in the 116 years of the ABA's existence. But the ruling will unquestionably swell British membership of the presently scant list of professional women fighters.

With the old order and culture being so topsy-turveyed, I daresay that by the turn of the century there will be more British women prizefighters than men. Mrs Martin will be coming after them. It will not be a pretty sight.

She is 27, from West Virginia. They call her "the coalminer's daughter". Her left is like a pick, her right like a shovel. She is the latest luminary to light up the preposterous Don King's murky den. She is as bright as her sequined dressing-gown and, she says, enjoys working as a supply teacher in maths and English when she can get away from the gym. At the latter, when she was 21, she fell in love with her personal trainer Jim Martin. Now they are married and he is her manager. At first, he says, he was against her boxing — "and then I saw her fight and all I saw was dollar-signs," he adds moonily and unabashed.

His wife has not lost a fight in six years. She drives a \$70,000 (\$43,000) BMW, and so does he. King agrees it helps the ticket-selling that "my Christine is pristine" — meaning white-skinned. The only flies on Don are at the front of his brows.

Out of the ring Christy can look as devilishly wistful as a soft-focus Doris Day or as sparkily and sex-appeal knowing as Meg Ryan. She is no smouldering glamour-puss

but, at work, she is one who, with a relishing snarl, scratches to draw blood by the bucketful. Last week in Las Vegas she earned \$50,000 when a gruesome "split" of first-round right-hander splayed the senses and legs of a bewildered black Bambi called Bethaney from Atlanta. Sky has already shown Mrs Martin's venom a few times on British screens. Like the US weather, we will get it over here for real soon enough. She will bring with her a nice paradoxical counter-drum for British feminists to wobble their jaws and chests over. Which is less PC? An all-female smilingly smitted competition? Or a male-and-sadistically bloodletting Mrs World heavyweight boxing champion? The latter is repulsive and surely worth burning a drawdown of brass for. But what about equality of opportunity between the sexes? Difficult one, eh, gels?

The monstrous regiment's best bet is attack through King's absurdly blatant sexism. He introduces you to his distasteful dish. She flutters her eyelids. You shake hands with the right that could bust your jaw. Doing the honours, Don says in his usual hot-gospel EYE-TAL-ICS: "Meet my champ, the most vivacious, curvaceous, voluptuous and intoxicatingly beautiful little thing who enjoys and excels in causing pain and hurt like she's not a care in the world and has just run down to the candy-store to buy a cinnamon roll. When she hits, they never get up, so I want you, sir, to call on your friends like Max Factor and Mr Revlon and tell them this Christy of mine will get into the ring to promote round the world their non-smear lipstick or rouge that don't bristle. Tell 'em she's The Girl That Can Pack a Punch Yet Still Look BEE-UTE-IF-FULL."

"No-nice to meet you, Mrs Martin, marn," I muttered as I began to back away. "Good luck tomorrow," I said. "No worries," she said, smiling with a sweet serenity. "I'll bang her once, she'll be scrambled, it won't last a round."

**A**ND, when she coquettishly squigged up her nose to emphasise the terrible threat, I suddenly thought of that immortal and Churchillian retort by beloved Henry Cooper when, in an anti-boxing TV debate, the battle-axe Baroness Summerskill said: "Mr Cooper, get a mirror and just look at the state of your nose." And "Every replied: "Get one yourself, madam, and look at your nose. Boxing's my excuse. What's yours?"



## Meet Simon.

### Simon wants all the rewards of the stock market without taking all the risks.

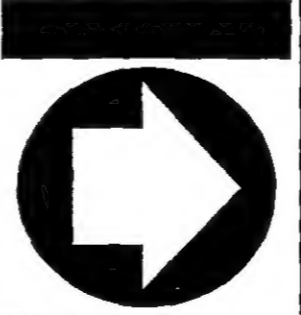
Simon likes a bit of excitement, but he's not very keen on risk. So unsurprisingly he's very interested in Midland's Capital Protected Personal Equity Plan. Like traditional PEPs, it's a way to benefit from stock-market growth without paying income or capital gains tax. Unlike traditional PEPs, however, Simon will get back all his initial investment plus a fixed return of 18% on his capital at the end of five years, even if the stock market falls. Which adds up to a better deal than his building society is likely to offer him. Simon described it as "having my cake and eating it" or something like that.

He called 0800 65 65 65 for his information pack and application form.

We'll have to return it quickly because the offer is strictly limited.



**MIDLAND**  
The Listening Bank  
Member HSBC Group

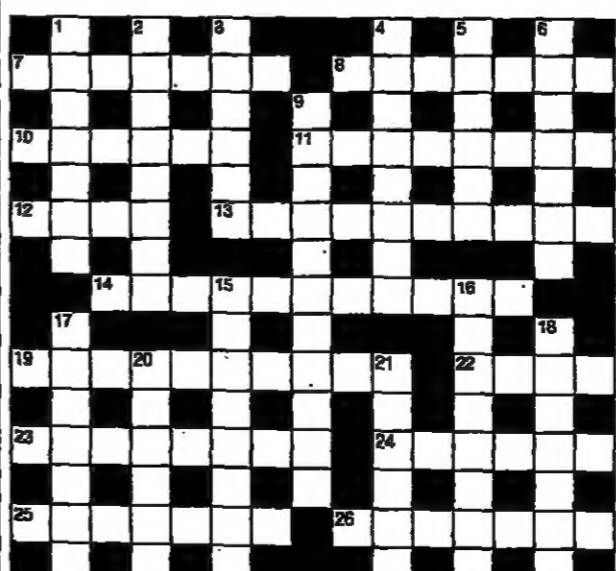


Weird sex, sad sex, joke sex — anything, in current literary novels, rather than old-fashioned rumpy-pumpy, evoked in tumescent prose engorged with pseudo-poetic imagery. John Dugdale

**Books**  
G2 page 8

## Guardian Crossword No 20,816

Set by Rufus



### Across

- 7 Needle for decoration on artificial silk (7)
- 8 It doesn't make sense, but put it in anyway (7)
- 10 Recent change of heart (6)
- 11 Said to be celebrated (8)
- 12 State welcome to King (4)
- 13 Right opportunity for murder? Nothing doing (4,2,4)
- 14 A charge made upon income? (8,3)
- 19 Pull leg about being in bed that's untidy (10)
- 22 Left or right in the vessel (4)
- 23 Forces in conflict, though connected with the law (8)
- 24 Instant support (6)
- 25 The Magi seem upset in victory (4,3)
- 26 Bad rule may become permanent (7)

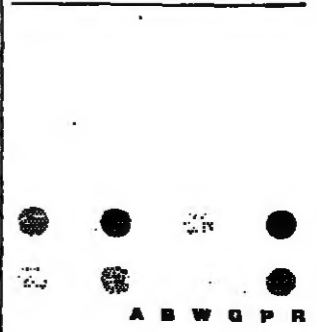
### Down

- 1 Former pupil has to wait and see (7)
- 2 It presses for accommodation over the club (4-4)
- 3 It's way up as money (6)
- 4 Liqueur made in Eastern state (8)
- 5 Hooded jacket Rex found in a tree (6)
- 6 Sharp reminder of the church's status (7)
- 9 There's nothing special about Clapham, say (11)
- 15 Unusual regret about one's record (6)
- 16 Particular pieces muddled by a learner (8)
- 17 Arab that is bound to be a wanderer (7)
- 18 Hint reveals both experience and age (7)

- 20 Staggered, but got in line (8)
- 21 America is after a record in Olympic event (6)

Solution tomorrow

If stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 328 328. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by AT&T.



omi  
pav  
ear



Wido  
D  
Insi